

Government. Every objection which has been made resolves itself into one of expediency; and upon that of course there may be a variety of opinions. It is true that the termini of this telegraphic line will be within the dominions of Great Britain exclusively. It is true that withholding this appropriation on the part of our Government will not put an end to this telegraphic communication, provided it be practicable. It will be established; it will go into operation; and it will be a tremendous instrument in the hands of some one to affect the most vital interests of this country. It will put into the hands of those who have the exclusive control of it ten days' information in advance of all the community, with regard to the markets of the European world. When I say that, I say everything that can be said to convey to the mind the vast importance of this communication, if it shall be successful. Then what is the question here? It is simply a question whether we, now that we have an opportunity, shall, by the appropriation of \$70,000 per annum, be placed upon a footing of perfect equality with the Government of Great Britain, within whose dominions will be the two termini of this line; and whether our citizens shall have an equal advantage and an equal right with the subjects of Great Britain, or any other country in the world? Can there be two opinions on that point? Is it possible that the appropriation called for by this bill can be placed by any one who looks at the vast interests that may be involved, into the opposite scale, to weigh down the merits of this bill?

The object of this appropriation is to communicate instantaneously with England by our Government, and very briefly, or at least in a short period, with all the Governments of Europe, certainly in time of peace, and possibly, and probably, in time of war. It is moreover to secure to the commerce, the agriculture, and every other interest of this country, an instantaneous communication with the whole civilized world on the other continent. Now, how is it possible that there can be any diversity of opinion with regard to the expediency of such a measure? If it be constitutional, if it be to promote a legitimate object under the charge of this Government, (and that it is no one doubts,) if the appropriation be a small one, and be connected with interests of such vast magnitude, I am at a loss to discover how any gentleman can be opposed to this bill. I shall vote for it cheerfully.

Mr. BAYARD. I cannot, for my own part, appreciate the objections taken to this measure on the part of those who consider that it involves the interests of this country in the event of a war. It is a proposition springing from a private company, on the face of the papers, who have proposed to the Government of Great Britain to aid them in the construction of a yet untried project of establishing a submarine telegraph between the British possessions in North America and England proper. It is, of course, a hazardous undertaking. There is no certainty in it; and it is not unnatural, under these circumstances, that individuals should desire to see at least on what terms they are to stand with the Government of

the two countries most deeply interested, in the event of the success of their enterprise. Their proposition, in the first place, asks nothing unless the enterprise succeeds, except that the Government will take the soundings, or verify the soundings already taken, and in the event of these soundings proving the former ones to be accurate, that they will suffer their vessels to be employed in laying down this telegraphic wire. That is the proposition. The British Government have accepted it only to a limited extent. They agree, not in a contract, but in their acceptance, that they will enter into a contract for the purpose of affording aid in verifying the soundings, and will give a favorable consideration to a proposition to afford such aid as the Government may see fit in laying down the wire. The expense, therefore, will be very trivial in this respect to our country by entering into a similar engagement.

If this were a war measure—if it looked to war, or was connected with war as a consequent in the eye of the Government of Great Britain, does any gentleman suppose that Government would, for a consideration of \$70,000 additional, which is the amount of expenditure here, or even \$700,000 additional, pause for a moment in securing the control of a measure which looked to its interests in the event of war? If it is of such formidable moment to her in the event of war, and would throw us into such an inequality in a contest of that kind, is it possible to suppose that Great Britain, having the termini of the line in her own dominions, would not at once, if she looked to it in that point of view, secure to herself the control of this formidable engine for purposes of offense in war? In my judgment it is not so looked to; and I think gentlemen exaggerate the importance of this telegraph in the supposable event of war taking place between Great Britain and the United States, although I admit unhesitatingly that its construction would tend to the prevention of the probability of a war of that kind. I think it must be so viewed by the Government of Great Britain; but I am at a loss to perceive to what great extent she could avail herself of its advantages after war had commenced. Be that as it may, however, it is very certain that the telegraph will be made, if it is practicable, whether we pass this bill, and enter into this arrangement securing us the right that we secure to ourselves by it, or not. If it is made without our aid, are we not in the same condition? Do gentlemen suppose that an expense of \$70,000 a year will prevent the making of this telegraph if Great Britain considers it important to her interests in peace and war? She pays now \$900,000 a year for the transportation of the mails between the United States and England. Do you suppose \$70,000 a year is a sum which will make her pause if, on consideration, she presumes it will be of great benefit to her in the event of war, or even in peace?

I hold it to be certain that this telegraph wire, if practicable, will be laid, whether we consent to it or not. Are we not better off—is it not a fair arrangement to us if it secures to our Government, as a Government, means of communication with our agents in Europe during time of

peace, all of war? is nothing ordinary can come and it is successful proceeds per cent. \$50,000. exclusive right of Great intelligence agents in to your a lic at large

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